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TEEN GUNMAN IN SMART CASE WINS PAROLE



Dean Smart, far left, speaks at Thursday's parole hearing for William Flynn, who shot and killed Smart's brother nearly 25 years ago. Flynn was 16-year-old "Billy" in 1990 when he and three friends carried out what prosecutors said was Pamela Smart's plot to murder her husband, Gregg Smart.

POOL/JIM COLE/AP

William Flynn, Pamela Smart's teen lover, has served 25 years for killing her husband

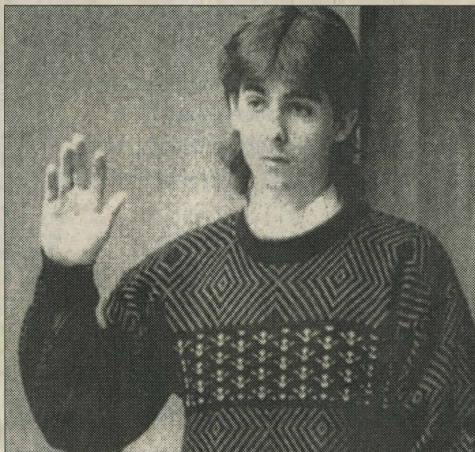
By PAT GROSSMITH
Union Leader Staff

CONCORD — William "Billy" Flynn — a love-struck teen who 25 years ago stood over Pamela Smart's kneeling husband, said "God forgive me" and then fired one shot into his head — was granted parole Thursday.

"It's your birthday," said Parole Board Chairman Donna Sytek during a hearing at the New Hampshire State Prison held via telephone. "Good news. We're granting you the privilege of parole."

Flynn, who turned 41 on Thursday, is currently detained at the Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren, Maine.

Flynn told board members he plans to remain in Maine. Flynn, who is married and the father of a stepchild, was described by Sytek as an exemplary



Flynn was 16 when he shot and killed Gregg Smart in Smart's Derry condo in 1990. He was the star witness in the murder conspiracy trial of Smart's wife, Pamela.

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prisoner who earned a college degree and journeyman electrician license and organized prisoners to give Christmas presents to kids in the community.

Flynn pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the May 1, 1990, execution-style killing of Gregg Smart. The 24-year-old Derry man was the husband of Pamela Smart, media director at Winnacunnet High School and Flynn's lover.

At trial, Flynn said Smart planned to use \$140,000 from her husband's life insurance policies to buy a house near Flynn so the two could be together.

The case gained international attention because Flynn was a 15-year-old high

school sophomore whom prosecutors said Smart seduced with sex and then threatened to end the relationship unless he killed her husband of seven months.

Flynn and three other teens were convicted in the case. Two were released from prison and the third, Patrick Randall, who held a knife to Gregg Smart's throat when Flynn shot him, is up for parole on April 9.

The news is apparently not sitting well with Smart, now 47, who is serving life without parole at the Bedford Hills (N.Y.) Correctional Facility after being convicted of being an accomplice to first-degree murder; conspiracy to commit murder; and witness-tampering. She

admitted to the affair but contends she had nothing to do with the murder.

"Once again, Bill Flynn has cynically used a winning strategy to get himself a better deal," said Eleanor Pam, her spokesperson, a retired University of New York professor who befriended Smart after becoming her academic mentor. "He paints himself as Pamela Smart's victim and blames her for acts he himself committed. Successfully playing the innocent virgin, he weeps into his tissues every chance he gets."

She said, in an emailed statement, that "Teenager Flynn was a murderer, a liar and a thief. He was well known to the police and an

experienced criminal. He was never Smart's victim but she has certainly been his. For two-and-a-half decades she has been paying for his crimes while he and his gangster co-conspirators have reaped the benefits of their perjurious testimony."

Smart family members, in statements prior to parole being granted, seemed resigned that Flynn's release was near. Val Fryatt, who noted her cousin Gregg would have been 50 this year, said Flynn never listened to Gregg that day when he begged him for his life. "You made a deal with the devil that day," she said. And then, she said, you made a deal with the state that called for 28 years to

life. She felt that should be the sentence he served.

"When and if you get your second chance, I pray to God you only do good things with it," she said.

She said there were a lot of "should-have-beens" Gregg missed, the most important "holding his mother's hand as she took her last breath. Gregg should have been there by his father's side as he fought his courageous battle with cancer."

Dean Smart, Gregg's younger brother, read a letter from his daughter, Ashley, in which she said Flynn's single act destroyed an entire family. She said she watched her grandparents and her father struggle their whole lives because of

Gregg's murder.

Dean Smart said he hoped if Flynn were paroled, that he uses that second chance to do great things to help erase the evil that he's done.

Flynn promised the Smart family members if he did get parole, he would do something in his new life to make a difference.

"I do feel a sense of responsibility to continually try to balance the scales that can't be balanced," he said.

As a condition of parole, Flynn is to undergo counseling to ensure his release will be successful, particularly since he is now married. He will be on parole for the rest of his life.

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